

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CRISTIAN J. RICHARDS,

Defendant.

4:17-CR-3133

PRELIMINARY ORDER OF  
FORFEITURE

This matter is before the Court on the plaintiff's Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture ([filing 41](#)). The superseding indictment in this case ([filing 23](#)) charged the defendant with, among other things, one count distributing and possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of [21 U.S.C. § 841](#). [Filing 23 at 1](#). The information contained a forfeiture allegation seeking the forfeiture, pursuant to [21 U.S.C. § 853](#), of United States currency seized from the defendant on or about August 31, 2017, on the basis that it was used to facilitate the commission of the offense and was derived from proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of committing the offense. [Filing 23 at 2](#). The parties have agreed that the amount to be forfeited is \$8,841. [Filing 37 at 1](#).

The defendant has pled guilty to the crime alleged and admitted the forfeiture allegation. [Filing 36 at 5](#); [filing 37 at 1](#); [filing 42 at 22](#). By virtue of pleading guilty to the charge and admitting the forfeiture allegation, the defendant has forfeited his interest in the property, and the plaintiff should be entitled to possession of the property pursuant to [21 U.S.C. § 853](#). Therefore, the plaintiff's motion for preliminary order of forfeiture is granted.

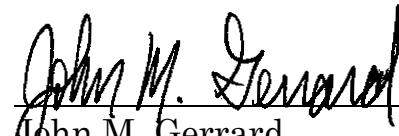
IT IS ORDERED:

1. The plaintiff's Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture ([filing 41](#)) is granted.
2. Based upon the defendant's guilty plea and admission of the forfeiture allegation of the information, the plaintiff is authorized to seize the \$8,841 in United States currency.
3. The defendant's interest in the property is forfeited to the plaintiff for disposition in accordance with law, subject to the provisions of [21 U.S.C. § 853\(n\)\(1\)](#).
4. The property is to be held by the plaintiff in its secure custody and control.
5. Pursuant to [21 U.S.C. § 853\(n\)\(1\)](#), the plaintiff shall publish for at least thirty consecutive days on an official Internet government forfeiture site ([www.forfeiture.gov](http://www.forfeiture.gov)) notice of this order, notice of publication evidencing the plaintiff's intent to dispose of the property in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in the property must file a petition with the court within thirty days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

6. Such published notice shall state that the petition referred to in paragraph 5, above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the petitioner's alleged interest in the property, shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title or interest in the property and any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and relief sought.
7. The plaintiff may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the property as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.
8. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a final order of forfeiture pursuant to [21 U.S.C. § 853\(n\)](#), in which all interests will be addressed.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2018.

BY THE COURT:

  
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John M. Gerrard  
United States District Judge